

MEDIA RELEASE

**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DAVID L. HUBER
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Western District of Kentucky**

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ARMED BANK ROBBER FOUND GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT

- Faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 32 years*
- Another Successful Project Backfire Prosecution*

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that a federal jury in Louisville found **CHARLES D. CROSS, JR.**, age 36, of 3720 Powell Avenue, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, **guilty** of robbing the Members First Federal Credit Union located at 7215 Riverport Plaza Drive, Louisville, Kentucky, on December 28, 2004, **guilty** of using a firearm to rob the Members First Federal Credit Union, **guilty** of robbing the Fifth Third Bank located at 4102 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, Kentucky, on May 11, 2005, and **guilty** of using a firearm to rob the Fifth Third Bank. The trial began on November 16, 2006 and concluded today.

Cross faces a maximum sentence of life in prison, a \$1,000,000 fine and up to five years on supervised release. **Cross** also faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 32 years in federal prison. **Cross is not eligible for probation and there is no parole in the federal judicial system.**

On December 28, 2004, **Cross** entered the Members First Federal Credit Union located at 7215 Riverport Plaza Drive, Louisville, Kentucky, wearing dark clothing and a mask underneath a black motorcycle helmet. **Cross** was armed with a black semi-automatic handgun. **Cross**

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brandished his weapon. He demanded money and received over \$11,000.00 in United States Currency. He sped away from the armed robbery in what witnesses described as a silver Oldsmobile Alero.

On May 11, 2005, **Cross** entered the Fifth Third Bank located at 4102 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, Kentucky, wearing dark clothing and a mask underneath a black motorcycle helmet. **Cross** was armed with a .30 caliber Universal rifle. Again, **Cross** brandished his weapon. During the robbery, **Cross** chambered a round in his weapon to intimidate bank employees. He demanded money and received over \$42,000.00 in United States Currency. A bank customer observed **Cross** enter a white vehicle and speed off. Police responding to the bank robbery observed **Cross** walking along the Watterson Expressway near Poplar Level Road perspiring profusely and trying to avoid police. Police approached and observed red dye on **Cross**' hands. **Cross** was arrested.

Police used a K-9 to track from the area of **Cross**' arrest. A short distance from his arrest, the K-9 located the getaway car as well as dye stained money, **Cross**' motorcycle helmet, his black mask and his weapon. Additionally, police found a receipt for the purchase of a motorcycle helmet and a rental receipt for the getaway car in the name of **Charles Cross**.

In a follow up investigation, police obtained Budget Rent A Car Systems records relating to **Charles Cross**. The records confirmed that **Cross** rented the getaway car on May 11, 2005 two hours prior to the robbery. Police also learned that **Cross** had rented a silver Oldsmobile Alero on December 28, 2004; the same date as the robbery of the Members First Federal Credit Union.

This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm

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offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

Cross is scheduled to be sentenced in United States District Court by Chief Judge John G. Heyburn II on February 23, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in Louisville, Kentucky.

The case was successfully prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brian Butler and Assistant United States Attorney Bob Kilmartin, and it was investigated by the Louisville Metropolitan Police Department - Robbery Squad and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

***** END *****

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